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15 September 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Regulation 30-250 - Policies - Conversation with GAO

1. On the morning of 14 September, I telephoned Mr. Morrow, Assistant General Counsel to the Comptroller General (Code 195, Extension 5983), a cleared Agency contact.

2. I explained to Mr. Morrow that cases frequently arose within the Agency which, because of security considerations, we were precluded from forwarding to GAO for relief under the provisions of 31 USC 82a-1. I said that in such cases, although determination of relief would be made internally, we desired to comply as closely as possible with GAO standards. We discussed certain language of the statute and the net result of the discussion was Mr. Morrow's statement that there were no firm standards, that each case was considered on its merits, and that reason and common sense were the primary guides.

3. Of particular interest was our discussion on burden of proof in which Mr. Morrow indicated that, although the burden of proof is on the claimant, this is not a particularly heavy burden. He gave the example of a paymaster who, after paying a number of persons in cash, found that his balance was a hundred dollars less than it should have been. In such case, he said, evidence that the paymaster had counted carefully and taken reasonable precautions to avoid error, would be sufficient to entitle him to relief.

4. Mr. Morrow suggested that we might get helpful guidance if we could select a few typical cases and discuss them informally, absent identities, with himself and one of the auditors. I told him that we would be most interested in receiving this type of guidance, and that we would try to call him within a few weeks with several cases in hand.

5. In general, Mr. Morrow was inclined to be most helpful, is appreciative of our peculiar security problems, and appeared to have no objection to our following our intended procedure.

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